



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

PHOENIX AREA OFFICE

P.O. BOX 10

PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85001



IN REPLY
REFER TO:

Real Estate Services
300.1 Eastern Nevada
Duck Valley Monitoring Well
(602) 241-2281

Rec'd
4/25/89

APR 20 pm

OUR CE

Mr. Tim Kneafsey
Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
Office of Underground Storage Tanks
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Kneafsey:

We are in receipt of your March 10, 1989, letter requesting information on a potential release of petroleum product from a Bureau facility located in Owyhee, Nevada. The following questions as outlined in your letter are addressed below:

1. A description of the tank system, with notification form if notified, a release description, including amount and type of product released, and how the release occurred;
 - a) The Bureau's Eastern Nevada Agency facility in Owyhee, Nevada, has a 16,000 gallon aboveground tank that is utilized for the storage of fuel oil. The fuel oil from this tank was formerly piped to all Bureau buildings (including employee housing) in Owyhee until 1985, when this pipeline was abandoned. The reason this pipeline was abandoned and individual storage tanks placed beside each Bureau building was to accurately charge each program or employee their share of heating costs. The 16,000 gallon storage tank is still in use, but the fuel oil is now trucked from this tank to individual storage tanks beside each Bureau building.
 - b) Water samples have been collected, tested and analyzed. Based upon the attached water test results, which were analyzed on 4/18/88, 5/22/88, 5/5/88, 11/11/88 and 2/12/89, it is difficult to estimate if a measurable release of product occurred or what type of product was released.
 - c) Please find enclosed a letter from the Department of Health & Human Services dated April 28, 1988, to our Eastern

4. An explanation of what has been done to date to investigate and remediate this problem;

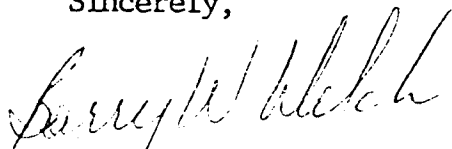
- a) The Eastern Nevada Agency removed the Roads shop underground storage tank in March 1988 and determined it was not leaking. The reported petroleum contamination in the water system seemed to be associated with another source.
- b) A site inspection was conducted in June 1988 by our Environmental Services staff from Washington, D.C. Based on the site visit, it was decided that a monitoring well must be installed near the drinking water well to determine the extent of potential contamination and future remediation. The monitoring well was installed at the following location on July 18, 1988:

T. 47 N., R. 52 E.. MDM
Section 26: NE1/4NW1/4SE1/4

- c) Please find enclosed for your information monthly reports on the monitoring well submitted by our Eastern Nevada Agency and correspondence by the Phoenix Area Office and the Bureau's Washington, D.C. Office. Also attached are soil and water sample test results completed by the Department of Health & Human Services, Data Chem of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Kennedy/Jenks/Chilton of San Francisco, California.
- d) The most recent water sample collected by our Agency was on February 3, 1989, and analyzed by Data Chem. The sample tests showed no detectable amounts of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene and n-heptane. Since these chemicals are the major components of diesel fuel, it can be assumed that the spill has moved from the area adjacent to the well and is possibly diluted. However, the Bureau will continue to monitor the well and the immediate area. The re-occurrence of any odor or discoloration in the drinking water or the presence of any other related problems in the area could result in the placement of additional monitoring wells for further study and potential clean-up.

If you have any further questions regarding the above, please contact Area Environmental Services at (602) 241-2281/FTS 261-2281 or Mr. Warren Sedlacek, Eastern Nevada Agency at (702) 738-5165.

Sincerely,



Area Director

Enclosures

Nevada Agency in Elko, Nevada. On March 9, 1988, the Indian Health Service (IHS) collected five aqueous samples from various locations along the water distribution system and the well serving the Owyhee Community. The test results of the water samples did not detect petroleum contamination. However, an onsite inspection conducted by IHS of the Owyhee community well and surrounding area revealed soil discoloration and concentrated petroleum odor. It was the opinion of IHS that additional testing was necessary. The IHS also installed a new community well to be used as a system backup last year. For further information on IHS's activities, please contact their office in Elko, Nevada, at (702) 738-8056.

2. A description of the affected area, including the facility where the release occurred, distance to the affected wells, depth to groundwater, soil types encountered;
 - a) The seepage occurs under the driveway of the tribal maintenance shop in Owyhee. Various pieces of tribally-owned heavy equipment traverse this driveway daily for maintenance in this shop.
 - b) This area is located approximately 70 yards southeast of two of Duck Valley's three domestic wells. The two wells affected are respectively powered by a 7.5hp and a 30hp motor. The unaffected well, powered by a 10hp motor, has continued to provide the domestic water for this system. Neither of the two affected wells have been used the winter of 1988-89.
 - c) Groundwater depth, in the localized area of the affected wells, has fluctuated between 7'5" and 11'0" below the surface depending upon the season of the year.
 - d) The soil type in this area is a Wickahoney-Wagonbox complex. Please find enclosed the Soil Conservation Service's 1983 Soil Survey of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Idaho and Nevada, which describes this soil.
 - e) There may be other sources of contamination occurring in this localized area. Eastern Nevada Agency staff have reported that gasoline spills have occurred at the school bus yard adjacent to the Bureau's Roads shop.
3. A description of the land use of the affected area, and water use from the affected wells, and population involved;
 - a) The affected area is on the edge of the town of Owyhee. The water from this system is primarily for domestic use. There are 229 separate hookups into this water system. Water users include homes, a hospital, schools, and government buildings.

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